

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to specify the procedures to be followed by members of the importing trade community desiring to automate their manifest procedures.

During the early 1980's, the U.S. Customs Service had several separate automated systems. Each of these systems operated independently and had no means of exchanging and sharing data.

In 1984 the systems were integrated under one large system, now known as the Automated Commercial System (ACS). ACS is a comprehensive tracking, controlling and processing system that provides an interactive platform for multiple applications. Three major applications incorporated in ACS are selectivity, the Automated Broker Interface (ABI), and the Automated Manifest System (AMS).

- The cargo selectivity system is an essential enforcement and entry-processing tool for CBP. Using a variety of criteria databases and information provided in the entry, cargo selectivity helps determine the level of examination needed on merchandise imported into the United States.
- ABI enables participants to interface directly with the CBP Data Center to transmit data pertaining to merchandise imported into the United States. Qualified participants include brokers, importers, protest, drawback and in-bond filers, and independent data processing companies, referred to as service centers.
- AMS was created with the objective of easing the labor-intensive function of reconciling imported cargo inventories. AMS is comprised of Air, Sea, and Rail components. This document will only focus on the Air functionality of AMS.